

H. Extension Service  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C.

1913  
H3C73

COMMENTS ON THE 1942 HOME-MANAGEMENT AND HOUSE-FURNISHING

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PLANS OF WORK \*

Adjustments and Remedies

Of the 60 home-management and house-furnishing plans of work for 1942 that I read, I found only one or two that did not mention changes caused by defense or war conditions. No one could read 60 plans of work without having certain ideas or situations impressed on one's mind. Here are my reactions to the 1942 plans of work that you so skillfully adjusted to war situations:

Under "Adjustments and Remedies," you clearly stated that because of the war there would be many problems of adjustment due to cost of living changes, labor problems, and lack of equipment, but when you went on to describe the work you planned to undertake to help people meet these problems, the topics you selected were in terms of improving kitchens, house furnishings, and household equipment -- the usual project phases that we have always conducted. Somewhere between the goals and your careful analysis of the situation, you lost sight of the need for project phases that would actually help families to adjust to the serious problems caused by war.

Reaching All the People

During the last 3 years, especially since the mattress-making program for low-income families, I have been reading more carefully the plans you are making to help the less fortunate groups. I found little careful outlining of plans. I realize that the Food for Freedom campaign and the "Controlling the Cost of Living" program were uppermost in your minds, as well as in mine, but there does seem to be some place in the plan of work where specific attention could be paid to ways and means of broadening our influence with families that we have not been reaching. The neighborhood-leader system which was developed in the spring of 1942 will partially answer this need. Neighborhood leaders will be able to handle only a limited number of problems in a year's time. How to reach a majority of people with wartime home-management programs may remain unsolved unless we give special attention and thought to it.

4-H Home-Management and House-Furnishing Club Work

During the many years that I have been reading plans of work, I have reviewed with a great deal of interest the ways in which you anticipated giving leadership to the 4-H Club program. In 1942, more than ever before, I noted that very little attention was given to the adaptation of 4-H home-management and house-furnishing club work to the changing times. Too often you mentioned the program and merely said that you would answer requests of the 4-H Club staff to aid in fair judging and 4-H Club week. A plan of work should be couched in more specific terms with clearly outlined procedures if we expect to reach a 4-H home-management objective: "To so help 4-H Club girls that they will be better able to make decisions regarding the wise use of time, money, and physical resources to attain the satisfactions

they desire."

#### Timely Economic Information

More State specialists than ever before said that they were preparing a monthly economic information letter for distribution to county extension workers, home demonstration club presidents, and secretaries or local leaders. The States sending monthly letters are Vermont, "Economic Letter" (1942 was the second year for Mrs. Brooks' letter); West Virginia, "Facts for Consumers"; Louisiana, "Consumer Education Leaflets" (this series has been running for several years); California, "Home Management Letter"; Iowa, "Home Management Letters"; Kansas, "Home Management Letters"; and Maine, "Victory Chats."

#### Intentions to Print

The home-management specialists who assisted in developing the report on an "adaptation of home-management teaching materials to war situations" in January, 1942 recommended that we continue our study of "ways and means of eliminating duplication of efforts in preparing subject-matter bulletins" and experiment with an exchange of "intentions to print." The plan proposed was outlined as follows:

Every specialist who expected to prepare a bulletin in 1942 was to send an outline of the proposed contents to me. I, in turn, was to send this outline to other specialists who had notified me that they were preparing similar material. In this way subject-matter material was to be pooled, and definite plans were to be made for exchange of pictures and, in some cases, printing costs.

One cooperative bulletin was successfully completed during 1942. It was "Spending and Saving in Wartime," Massachusetts State College Extension Leaflet 207, 16 pages, illustrated, Amherst, 1942, written by Beatrice Billings, home demonstration agent-at-large, Massachusetts State College, and specialists from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

#### Time Management

I scanned the lists of literature you planned to prepare to learn of new publications on time management. The list is as follows with mimeograph or bulletin numbers as they appeared in print during the year.

Michigan - Time saved is money saved.

Nebraska - Conserving Energy, Nebr. Agr. Col. Ext. Circ. 11-401, 5 pp., Lincoln. Processed.

North Carolina - Gordon, Pauline E., and Williams, Elizabeth, Plan your time for victory, N. C. Agr. Col. Ext. Misc. Pamphlet 66, 7 pp., State College Station, Raleigh.

Texas - Bryant, Louise, Times a' flyin', victory's waiting, what about your time?, 4 pp. illus., Tex. Agr. Col. Ext. unnumb.; College Station, n.d. Processed.

West Virginia - Avoid fatigue.